GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:47
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
ANTYODAYA YOJANA
RATTAN LAL KATARIA;SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently launched Antyodaya Yojana for poorest of the poor in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the criteria adopted to identify the beneficiaries under the scheme in urban and rural areas;

(d) the total number of beneficiaries in each State;

(e) the steps taken to ensure proper distribution of foodgrains under the scheme and also to check its misuse;

(f) the steps initiated by the Union Government to reduce the burden of State Governmentsfor transporting the foodgrains to be provided under the scheme; and
(g) the quota fixed for each State and the manner of its distribution alongwith the guidelines issued to State Governments for implementation of the scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) & (g) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) & (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO 47 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 23.02.2001.

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) & (g) : The Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched by the Prime Minister onthe 25th December, 2000 contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families and providing them with foodgrains @ 25 kg per family per month at highly subsidised rates - Rs.2 a kg for wheat and Rs.3 a kg for rice. A statement indicating the number of Antyodaya families to be identified in each State/Union territory is enclosed.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to identify the Antyodaya families from amongst BPL families within their respective jurisdiction. They have also been advised to finalise the list of Antyodaya families by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions/ local bodies.

With a view to devising a mechanism to ensure that the foodgrains lifted by the State Governments from Central godowns get actually distributed to the beneficiaries under the Targetted Public Distribution System, the Government of India has suggested that future allotments of foodgrains be linked to the receipt of a certificate from the State Governments to the effect that the allotted quantities of foodgrains have been actually distributed to the beneficiaries. The Guidelines issued by the Government of India in regard the Antyodaya Anna Yojana specifically provide that the allocation of foodgrains to the States will be linked to the receipt of Utilisation Certificates from them to the effect that the foodgrains already allocated have actually reached the Antyodaya families.

The Government of India has advised the State Governments/UT Administrations tosubstantially involve the Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of the Public Distribution System, especially at the Fair Price Shop level, as a measure of social audit. It is expected that the involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the implementation of the Public Distribution System at the grass root level will make the said System transparent and accountable and thereby help in checking the diversion of PDS commodities to a great extent.

Keeping in view the extremely poor condition of the Antyodaya families, the Government of India has suggested to the State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure that the end retail price is retained at Rs.2 a kg for wheat and Rs.3 a kg for rice.The expenditure to be borne by the State Governments in this regard would not be much. The extent of subsidy involved in the scheme from the Central Exchequer will be Rs.2300 crores per annum.

Foodgrains under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be distributed to the beneficiaries through the existing network of fair price shops.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b),(c),(d),(e),(f) & (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.47 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 23.02.2001. STATEMENT INDICATING THE NUMBER OF ANTYODAYA FAMILIES TO BE IDENTIFIED EACH STATE/UT.

(in lakhs)

SL. NO.	State/UT	NO. OF ANTYODAYA FAMILIES
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.228
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.151
3	Assam	2.815
4	Bihar	10.000
5	Chattishgarh	2.874
6	Delhi	0.626
7	Goa	0.073
8	Gujarat	3.250
9	Haryana	1.209
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.787
11	Jammu & Kashmir	1.129
12	Jharkhand	3.665
13	Karnataka	4.797
14	Kerala	2.382
15	Madhya Pradesh	6.324
16	Maharashtra	1.017
17	Manipur	0.255
18	Meghalaya	0.281
19	Mizoram	0.105
20	Nagaland	0.189
21	Orissa	5.055
22	Punjab	0.717
23	Rajasthan	3.726
24	Sikkim	0.067
25	Tamilnadu	7.455
26	Tripura	0.452
27	Uttaranchal	0.763
28	Uttar Pradesh	16.371
29	West Bengal	7.939
30	Andaman & Nicobar	0.043
31	Chandigarh	0.035
32	D&N Haveli	0.028
33	Daman & Diu	0.006
34	Lakshdweep	0.004
35	Pondicherry	0.128
	T O T A L	99.954